

Vertical Section Executive Committee Meeting (Approved)

June 16th, 2019

Cookeville High School, Cookeville, TN

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Chairman Gene Harrison. VSEC Members present were Chairman Gene Harrison, Vice Chairman Mike Rusin, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira and member-at-large Bill Boehle. Also present were Webmaster-Rebelay Workshop Coordinator Gary Bush along with guests Terry Mitchell, Ed Sira and Lynn Ott. The Chairman announced that proxies were held by Gary Bush for absent At-Large member Gary Napper, Mike Rusin held the proxy for absent Vertical Techniques Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron and Terry Mitchell held the proxy for absent Climbing Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington so the quorum of 5 has been met. The positions of Education Coordinator and Editor are currently vacant.
2. **Reports**
 - A. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison has sent material to Carol Tideman for inclusion in the NSS convention manual on the Vertical Sections requirements during convention. He has also reviewed and updated the VS safety procedures including adding a medical release to the child waiver. PMI wanted an official written request from the VS for the contest ropes. Gene has designed a new letterhead and drafted a letter to Peter Morgan at PMI. (Letterhead is now located on the VS Google docs drive). Gene has put together a design package for the scaffolding used for the Rebelay Workshop. Scaffolding and a lift for this year's convention will cost \$1243.00. The convention will be paying for it. The convention has always picked up this cost in the past. Bill Boehle mentioned the VS is not a 501(c)(3) as was mentioned in the letter to PMI. An equipment committee has been formed to review the gear user for the climbing contest and the Introduction to Vertical Techniques Workshop and make recommendations for any additional or replacement gear needed. Gene would like to have the climbing contest rules reviewed. Ray stated that the current rules do not require any waivers to be signed. The new convention waiver should take care of this. Tim White has put together a Basic SRT Course Instructor Lesson Plan for review by the VS training committee. Convention attendees will get a bat stamp on their name tag when they sign a liability waiver. This will allow us to know if someone has signed a waiver or not. Gene asked if the memorial bricks approved at last year's meeting had been purchased. Ray said they had. Lynn has volunteered to organize getting letters sent to nominate Mike Rusin for NSS Fellow.
 - B. **Vice Chairman** – Mike Rusin has nothing to report.
 - C. **Secretary Treasurer** – Ray Sira distributed minutes from the 2018 Convention meetings as well as the Treasurers and membership reports. Ray would like to eliminate the option for paying \$10.00 to have the Nylon Highway mailed to members. This will be brought up under new business.
 - D. **Symbolic Items** – Bill Boehle has transferred this position to Christa Hay. Christa was not able to attend this year's convention but has submitted a report.

- E. **Awards** – Ken Alwin was not present. Bruce Smith had some recommendations for Gary Bush but no action has been taken yet. Gary will talk to Ken and Bruce about the recommendations.
 - F. **Webmaster** – Gary Bush reported there was a 404 error a few months ago that erased all NSS sections web pages from the server. Gary had a back up from a year ago that was used to restore the web page. The NSS does not currently have a functional IT committee. Ray Sira mentioned he has created a Google Group for the Vertical Section Executive Committee as well as the email address nssverticalsection@gmail.com and has started storing important documents on Google Drive.
 - G. **Editor** – This position is currently vacant.
 - H. **Climbing Contest** – Bill Cuddington is unable to attend the convention this year. Terry Mitchell suggested we run the contest by committee. Ray Sira will be printing the award certificates. Bill Boehle will work on contest prizes. We need to draft volunteers to help run the contest. Gary Bush will pick up the ropes from On-Rope 1. Terry will take charge of setting up the ropes.
 - I. **Rebelay Workshop** – Gary reported the John Woods would not be attending the convention and will need help running the workshop. Gary Storrack may be able to help.
 - J. **Vertical Techniques Workshop** – Kurt Waldron will not be attending the convention this year. Terry will be the acting workshop coordinator. Mike Rusin will train as backup coordinator.
 - K. **Training Committee** – Terry Mitchell reported the training committee was mostly dormant this past year except for Tim and Lee White submitting their Basic SRT Course Instructor Lesson Plan for review. The NCRC would like to work with us on training. We need student manuals for the Vertical Techniques Workshop. The committee will try to meet Thursday afternoon. Terry asked Gene to approach Tim White about possibly becoming the VS Training Coordinator.
 - L. **Equipment Committee** – Gary Bush says an inventory has been created. We recommend having four of each climbing system. We need to document usage and condition of all gear and all gear should be marked. Terry will make an inspection form for each station to verify the rope is in good condition after the workshop.
3. **Old Business**
- A. None.
4. **New Business**
- A. Mike Rusin made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2018 VSEC and VSEC E-meeting. Gary Bush seconded the motion and all approved.
 - B. Gene Harrison made a motion to approve the new safety procedures. Gary Bush seconded the motion and all approved.
 - C. Ray Sira made a motion to approve the new letterhead. Mike Rusin seconded the motion and all approved.

- D. Ray Sira made a motion to discontinue the option to pay for the Nylon Highway publication to be mailed. Bill Boehle seconded the motion and all approved.
 - E. Ray Sira has agreed to store the equipment trailer and bring it to the 2020 West Virginia Convention.
5. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.